

DOUGLAS-FIR/DRY SHRUB

Pseudotsuga menziesii/Dry shrub

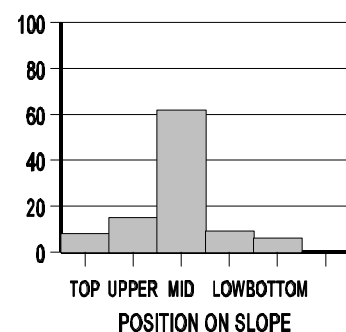
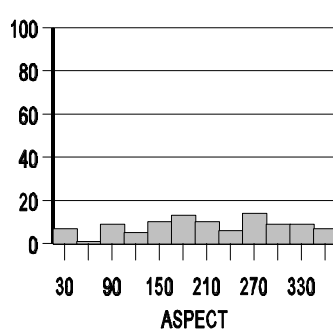
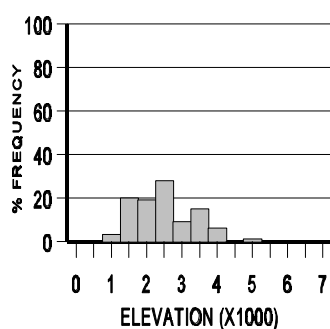
PSME/DRY SHRUB (N=86; BLM=86)



Distribution. This Association is scattered east of the Coast Range crest on dry sites. It occurs within the Grants Pass and Glendale Resource Areas, Medford District, Bureau of Land Management, and less often within the Galice and Illinois Valley Ranger Districts, Siskiyou National Forest, and the Applegate Ranger District, Rogue River National Forest. There may be occasional occurrences in the west half of the Butte Falls Resource Area, Medford District, Bureau of Land Management.

Distinguishing Characteristics. This Association only occurs in the Siskiyou east of the coastal crest and is not likely to occur in the Cascades. The presence of several dry shrubs (none have achieved dominance) is indicative of the hot, dry environment. Poison oak may have slightly more cover, but the overall combination of shrubs is better used to key to the associations.

Soils. Parent material varies from sandstone, mudstone, siltstone, shale, and mixed



metavolcanics to basalt. Based on 40 samples, soil depth averages at least 15 inches. Textures are mostly sandy clay loam, silt loam, sandy loam, or silty clay loam. Average rock fragment content is 42 percent. Most fragments (42 percent) are of gravel size.

Environment. Elevation ranges from about 1000 feet to over 4000 feet. The average, somewhat normally distributed, is 2500 feet. This Association occurs on all aspects, but slightly more often in the southwest quadrant. It occurs on all slope positions, but usually occupies midslopes. Slopes average about 43 percent. Average annual temperature is about 49 degrees F and average annual precipitation is about 48 inches. Approximately 1 percent of the forest floor is exposed bedrock, 58 percent is covered with litter, 7 percent is bare ground, and 14 percent is covered with moss.

Vegetation Composition and Structure. Total species richness, very low for the Series, is 26. The shrub layer, slightly depauperate, averages six species. Seven to 43 is the range for all layers of the Association. Cover greater than 10 feet (3 meters) tall, usually trees, averages 78 percent. Tree cover less than 10 feet tall, averages 8 percent; tall shrubs, greater than 20 inches (50 centimeters) tall, average 9 percent cover; low shrubs, less than 20 inches tall, average 13 percent cover; herb cover averages 18 percent. Madrone and sugar pine in a Douglas-fir dominated canopy are an indication that soils can be relatively deep. Both require high amounts of spring soil moisture. They may be contradicted as indicators by canyon live oak and California black oak in the understory. In this Series the complement of species alone is not enough to assess site environment. Interpretations must be balanced by considering relative cover and microsite differences. As the number and cover of dry site indicators increases, their indicator reliability increases. The shrub layer, for example, is a complement of dry indicators, all low in cover, but equal in value. White-flowered hawkweed and whipplevine support indications of dry microsites.

Common name	Code	Constancy	Cover	Avg. Richness
<u>Overstory trees</u>				2
Douglas-fir	PSME	97	43	
Sugar pine	PILA	14	13	
<u>Understory trees</u>				4
Douglas-fir	PSME	99	25	
Pacific madrone	ARME	58	12	
Canyon live oak	QUCH2	43	11	
California black oak	QUKE	27	8	
<u>Shrubs</u>				6
Poison oak	RHDI6	72	6	
Creeping snowberry	SYMO	69	5	
Baldhip rose	ROGY	67	2	
Hairy honeysuckle	LOHI2	64	3	
California hazel	COCOC	60	5	
<u>Herbs</u>				14
White-flowered hawkweed	HIAL2	77	1	
Western sword-fern	POMU	58	1	
Whipplevine	WHMO	52	5	